

**Introduced by Senator Figueroa**December 2, 2002

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An act to amend the heading of Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 510) of Chapter 1 of Division 2 of, and to add Section 513 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to health care providers.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 26, as introduced, Figueroa. Health care providers: late payment: reporting to consumer credit reporting agencies.

Existing law does not regulate the reporting by a health care provider to a consumer credit reporting agency of nonpayment or late payment for health care services provided by the provider to a health care consumer.

This bill would prohibit a health care provider from reporting a health care consumer as delinquent to a consumer credit reporting agency relative to any delay in payment by a payor for covered health care services provided by the provider to the health care consumer for which the provider reasonably expects payment from the payor.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The heading of Article 1.5 (commencing with
- 2 Section 510) of Chapter 1 of Division 2 of the Business and
- 3 Professions Code is amended to read:
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Article 1.5. ~~Advocacy for Appropriate Health Care~~  
*Miscellaneous*

SEC. 2. Section 513 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

513. A provider shall not report a health care consumer as delinquent to a consumer credit reporting agency relative to any delay in payment by a payor for covered health care services provided by the provider to the health care consumer for which the provider reasonably expects payment from the payor.

(b) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) “Consumer credit reporting agency” shall have the same meaning as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 1785.3 of the Civil Code.

(2) “Payor” shall mean a health care service plan or a health insurer.

(3) “Provider” shall have the meaning as defined in paragraph (5) of subdivision (d) of Section 511.1.